

REMARKS

This amendment is filed to clarify the record. This amendment addresses the issues raised in the Petition filed on February 13, 2003, and the clarification statement filed on April 22, 2003. This amendment also embodies the response and a summary of the personal interviews held with Examiner Ramakarishnaiah on January 20, 2004 and February 11, 2004.

After this amendment, only claims 73-78, 81-95, 97-101, 104 and 105 remain pending in this application.

By telephone inquiry with Examiner Ramakarishnaiah on February 11, 2004, it is established that the amendment accompanied with the petition filed on February 13, 2003, has not been physically entered into the record. It is requested that this current amendment should be entered into the record instead of the amendment which accompanied the petition. This amendment cancels the same claims as were canceled in the petition, but this amendment does not request any cancellation of the materials in the specification and the drawings, unlike the request made in the petition. Specifically, it is requested that the figures 3A1, 3A2, 3B1, 3B2 and 3B3 and the accompanied text should stay in the application.

By way of explanation, this amendment, consistent with the petition filed on February 13, 2003, gives the final status of all the claims. No current amendment to the claims is made, only the result of all the previous amendments is presented. As

a result, only claims 73-78, 81-95, 97-101, 104 and 105 remain pending in the application.

All the canceled claims recited the apparatus which was specifically shown in figures 3A1, 3A2 and 3B1-3. Because of the issues raised in the petition regarding the possibility of new matter, we have canceled all the claims which require any reference to these figures. The pending claims only recite the method of detecting and communicating the information from a remote location to a central location, and do not claim any apparatus associated with this invention. We have filed a continuation in which we would address the claims relating to the apparatus associated with the method claims.

At the two interviews, the examiner raised the issue that the pending claims should be consistent with the position the applicants have taken in the petition of February 13, 2003, i.e., that figures 3A1-2 and 3B1-3 might contain new matter. The now pending claims were discussed with the examiner. They are indeed dependent on a single independent claim, 95, which simply is a method claim. The dependent claims also relate to the claimed method.

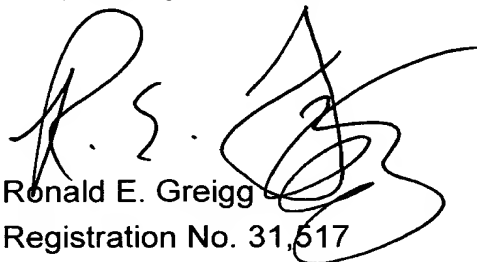
All the now depending claims were allowed by the examiner previously, along with other additional claims, see the Office action mailed October 8, 2002. Note that claims 2-62, 64-71, 79, 80, 102-103, which were allowed in the Notice of Allowance of October 8, 2002 are currently being canceled because of the issue raised by the possibility of new matter relating to figures 3A1-2 and 3B1-3, per the petition of

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February 13, 2003. That issue will be resolved fully on record in the Continuation Application. All the apparatus claims would be found allowable in the Continuation Application.

Since we have discussed all the outstanding issues, we strongly believe that pending claims 73-78, 81-95, 97-101, 104 and 105 should be again allowed, and their allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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